

INTACT

The International Network to Analyze, Communicate and Transform the Campaign against Female Genital Mutilation

November 2008

Welcome Note

This November issue on INTACT's E-Newsletter covers stories from within the African region as well as worldwide reactions on the issue of female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C).



In this issue, action plan for combating FGM, heart felt features and much more.

Enjoy reading!

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INSight

Egypt: Inter-African Committee on Traditional Practices (IAC) holds General Assembly/ International Conference in Cairo

27 October 2008

This press release appeared in *the IAC website*

The Inter-African Committee on Traditional Practices (IAC) holds its 7th General Assembly/International Conference in Egypt from 27-30 October 2008. More than 100 participants from 28 African countries, 15 affiliates/group sections as well as IAC members attended. The goal of IAC is to eliminate all forms of harmful practices on women, especially FGM.

[Read the full article...](#)

Norway: Action Plan for combating Female Genital Mutilation

22 October 2008

This action plan appeared in *dg Communities: Population and Reproductive Health* added by Najmee Chowdhury

FGM is prohibited and punishable by law in Norway. The practice conflicts with fundamentals of human rights and with the UN convention on the Rights of women and girls. As a result, the government of Norway launched a new four-year Action Plan for Combating Female Genital Mutilation. The Plan constitutes a broad initiative against genital mutilation aimed at both prevention and securing accessible health care for women and girls who have been exposed to genital mutilation.

[Read the full article...](#)

Finland: NGO's Demand Guidelines to Prevent Female Circumcision

9 October 2008

This article appeared in *YLE NEWS*

Although FGM is not practiced in Finland, authorities believe that immigrant girls living in Finland are being sent to their home countries to undergo the procedure. Several groups and NGO's are calling upon the government to embark on a national Action Plan to fight FGM. The appeal has been brought to the attention of the Minister of Health and Social Services, so that it may be adopted to the legislation.

[Read the full article...](#)

Egypt: Egypt's First Lady Targets Female Genital Mutilation

28 October 2008

This article appeared in *Afrol News*

Egypt's first lady, H.E. Mrs. Suzanne Mubarak, and Chief of the technical committee of Egypt's National Council for Childhood and Motherhood, inaugurates the seventh international conference of the African committee for fighting harmful practices on 27 October 2008. The conference, themed as "Partnership with mass media to fight harmful practices," received various participants from UN agencies and African NGO's. FGM was discussed as being a "harmful practice that poses a threat to achieving the Millennium Development Goals," according to an Egyptian government official.



(c) 2004 TAHSEEN Project, courtesy of Photoshare

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West Africa: Cross-border FGM on the Rise

17 October 2008

This article appeared in *IRIN NEWS*

Experts say that cross-border FGM/C is on the rise. A study sponsored by UNIFEM, reveals that circumcisers or girls who undergo circumcision, are increasingly crossing borders to perform or undergo the procedure to operate in countries that have lenient FGM/C laws. A call for collaboration among governments is needed to eliminate FGM/C across West Africa.

[Read the full article...](#)



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Uganda : Female Genital Mutilation banned in Uganda

16 October 2008

This article appeared in *Mail & Guardian on line*

FGM has been banned by leaders of the only Ugandan tribe that still performs this procedure. Officials from the eastern town of Kapchorwa stated that by law, anyone involved in the practice will be arrested and prosecuted.

[Read the full article...](#)

Sierra Leone: Circumcision: A Girls Tale

2 August 2008

This article appeared in *The Guardian Weekly*

Yasmin, 19, from Sierra Leone describes her traumatic experience of FGM. She recalls the day she was mutilated and the days that followed where she had to have the procedure redone as her clitoris was "growing back" as she added. This article captures the shocking truth about the agony and pain that she went through and her vision for a better future for herself and for the next generation of her home country.

[Read the full article...](#)

Ethiopia: Religious Leaders from the Afar Region of Ethiopia Issue Declaration to End the Practice of Female Circumcision

14 August 2008

This article appeared in *Population Media Center* by *Kate Elmore*

The Ethiopian government's population, health and women's policies all promote eradication of harmful traditional practices, including FGM; yet social acceptance of the practice is still strong. Sheikh Mohamed Awael Hayat, President of the Supreme Sharia Court of the Afar Region emphasized on the fact that there is no religious linkage to FGM and he urged all areas to eliminate all forms of female circumcision.

[Read the full article...](#)

Liberia: FGM Continues in Rural Secrecy

24 September, 2008

This article appeared in *IRIN NEWS*

In Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Guinea, thousands of young girls are sworn to secrecy as part of their initiation into the secret association of the Sande Society. These young girls promise not to tell uninitiated girls and men about what they experience in their weeks of training in the forest, assume new names and have their clitoris cut off. Although, 20 percent of initiated girls die due to complications resulting from the FGM procedure, cultural conceptions are very difficult to change.



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